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Vol. IV.

SEPTEMBER, 1909

No. 1

"For the Welfare of the Child"

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SEPTEMBER, 1909

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The President's Desk

CHILD
WELFARE
CONFERENCE

Parents, educators and sociologists met in Worcester, Mass., during the first week in July, by invitation of Dr. G. Stanley Hall and Clark University, to consider many phases of children's needs.

The Mothers' Congress headed the list of organizations which had been asked to participate in the conferences.

Dr. Hall gave the keynote to the conferences by placing first on the program "The Home the Basis of Civic, Social and Moral Uplift."

The Child Study Institute, now in process of erection at Clark University, is the first building in America built for that purpose. It marks the beginning of a new era for children.

Scientific knowledge of the physical, mental and moral development of the child must become a required qualification of parents and teachers.

The great significance of the conference lies in the fact that all the results of the valuable research into childhood's traits is to be placed at the disposal of all who have the care of children.

To translate science into the simple language of everyday use, to make it available for all is the purpose of the new Conference for Child Research and Welfare which was the outcome of the week's conferences at Worcester.

Dr. G. Stanley Hall was elected President. All child welfare organizations will be represented in the Advisory Council.

The Executive Committee is composed of representatives of Clark University, Mothers' Congress, Kindergarten, Playground Association and Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, which indicates the breadth of view that should govern the work.

Dr. Hall outlined the plans which have been made for the establishment of a child study bureau as has been arranged for by Clark University next fall, and exemplified the different departments which will constitute the bureau. He said:

"There is nowhere in the world an institution devoted to collecting, diffusing and increasing the scientific knowledge of childhood, which in the last quarter of the century has been studied so actively and fruitfully.

"As this work essentially began in the United States, and as most of its American literature upon the subject, as its appended bibliography shows, has emanated from Clark University, its first instalment should be here. Such an organization has been under consideration for years. The institute which will be established next fall and will occupy two or more rooms in a new building now being built, will include ten departments.

"Everyone of these departments and nearly every subdivision and every item in the following plans has been developed and put into successful operation somewhere, so that the experimental stage is past. Their work from the beginning could be thus coördinated:

"A library department which should collect the important books and articles in all languages devoted to scientific study of children.

"Special functions of this department would be:

"The following of legislation that pertains to children in all such matters as the care of orphans, foundlings, homes, houses of detention, compulsory school age, age of responsibility for crime, witnesses in court, age limits for entering certain industries, etc. Foreign child legislation, which is simpler, should be gathered, correlated and made serviceable.

"This department should coöperate with all societies and existing institutions for the interests of children, of which there are many, and should eventually attempt an organization of organizations, first local and in the end national.

"The answering of individual correspondence concerning backward or otherwise peculiar children, of which hundreds of letters are received yearly here, which cannot be answered now, his department could assist in the computation of statistical work in connection with investigation.

"It might be practicable to collect a standard library, or a series of them, as a canon of children's reading, or a sort of hall of fame for children's books, based on the votes of experts, delicate though this process would be. There should also be a discriminatingly descriptive catalogue of books on children."

- II. A Pedagogical Museum.
- III. Hygiene of Infancy and School.
- IV. Heredity.
- V. Anthropological and Sociological Departments.
- VI. The Study of Subnormal Backward or Problematical Children.

- VII. Juvenile Crime and Vice, Including Truancy, Probation, Juvenile Courts, Reformatories, etc.
- VIII. Child Linguistics.
- IX. Experimental Pedagogy.
- X. The Study of Religious and Moral Education and Influence.

These resolutions were drawn up by the Committee on Resolutions and unanimously adopted:

"It is the sense of your committee that education, based upon a scientific study of human life, should be the controlling idea in all attempts to promote the welfare of children and of the society.

"It is the further sense of your committee that the long experience, perfected technique and accumulated resources of scientific child study should be made more generally available for this end.

"It is therefore recommended that this conference place itself on record as favoring the establishment of the following agencies and organizations:

"A child study institute whose purpose should be to conduct research work, develop library and museum facilities, and train men and women for leadership in the various activities relating to the welfare of children. This institute would have a branch at Washington, under the direction of a man or woman whose duty it would be to prepare bulletins that should guide parents and others in shaping the physical, intellectual and moral development of children. It would also maintain lecture courses at various times, open to the public on suitable conditions; and would support traveling students engaged in research work and the promotion of popular education along the lines of its investigations.

"Municipal departments of child research and guardianship which might have supervision of dependent, defective and delinquent children; such children to be reported without legal process and investigated and cared for as circumstances warranted.

"State departments of child research and guardianship, with supervision of the conditions surrounding childhood and power to inaugurate necessary measures for improving them.

"A national department in Washington of child research and guardianship.

"A national organization of child research and guardianship, whose purpose it would be to promote the work of the various agencies specified, open to all men and women interested in its work upon payment of a membership fee."

Anthony Comstock, Postal Inspector for the Federal
A DEFENDER OF CHILDHOOD Government, in an address at the conference, gave an account of the child protective work he has done for thirty-six years.

The corrupters of children's morals work often through the schools. They write to the principals saying they have children and would like a catalogue of the school, and in that way secure the names of the pupils. One man had 113 catalogues in his possession. Only recently Mr. Comstock had seized 69,000 immoral pictures and 333,900 books of corrupt character.

In the current year Mr. Comstock has made 67 arrests and destroyed nine tons of corrupting matter. He bears the scars of attempts on his life made by those whose nefarious calling has been checked through his efforts. Every influence against him has been used to turn him from his work, but without success. The Federal Postal authorities testified their approval of his work by making him a salaried official in the Post Office Department.

The protection thus afforded by the government to the youth of the land is due almost wholly to the life and work of Anthony Comstock. Parents have slight knowledge of the temptations and vile matter placed secretly in the hands of innocent children, and they surely owe gratitude to the guardian of innocence and purity who, for so many years, has given consecrated service to every home.

It is encouraging to know that there is a great decrease in the publication of such literature, showing that the enactment and enforcement of laws has had its beneficent effect.

President Taft lent his influence for a saner method of celebrating the Fourth of July by a letter to Commissioner Macfarlane, of the District of Columbia, expressing his sympathy with the movement to protect children from accidents.

THE FOURTH OF JULY
Mayors of many cities took a strong stand for a saner Fourth. Nearly every newspaper in the country conducted an educational campaign which brought the attention of parents to the injustice done to helpless children by placing firearms in their hands, endangering their own and other lives.

Cleveland, Ohio, had the proud record of no injuries and no fires on July 4th, 1909. Springfield, Mass.; San Francisco, Saratoga, Baltimore, Washington, Chicago, Milwaukee, Worcester, Providence and Toledo were among the cities which adopted a different celebration of Independence Day. Next year should add many other cities to the list united for protection of childhood. Every little life sacrificed through the use of firearms and fireworks lies at the door of those who place in their possession the instruments of death. It is one of children's rights to be protected from personal injury and from the possibility of taking others' lives.

A Suggestion for Mothers' Circles

It has remained for the city of Lynn, Mass., to produce something entirely new in the annals of clubdom. For a number of years a woman's club has been in existence in that city with a constitution consisting of the following creed: "Speak no evil, always be kind, do the loving thing and observe the Golden Rule." It is said that the idea has become so popular that the membership has

reached over into the surrounding towns. Needless to say, the activity of the club in charitable work has made its name a cherished one among the needy.

It is a good thing for each one to take home the lesson of this movement for right thinking and right speaking and apply it just as far as his own understanding of the situation will permit.

The First Appeal of a Hindu Woman Against Child Marriage

MRS. VISVANATHA, Hindu Ladies' Magazin:

[The appeal of a Hindu woman to her countrywomen against the marriage of children is remarkable in that Hindu women have been in such subjection that they could not express themselves. *The Indian Mirror*, published in Calcutta, is edited by Norendro Nath Sen, who is a leader among those men of India who wish to abolish child marriage. Mr. Sen is encouraging Hindus to express themselves on this subject through the medium of *The Mirror*, and he is assisted by Justice Ashutosh Mookjeeji, Judge of the High Court in Calcutta.

The Judge arranged for the remarriage of his daughter, a child-widow, in spite of prejudice, and endured great opposition and criticism. He is fighting hard for the abolition of child marriage, raising the age limit to sixteen years.

Mrs. C. P. Wallace and Miss Carrie Tenant, representing the Indo-American Woman's Restoration Leagues, are in India aiding in the movement to rescue these children from the miseries of child marriage. All Americans must wish Godspeed to those who are battling for the childhood of India, and the Mothers' Congress notes with pleasure that a Hindu woman has found courage to speak for the rights of children to be protected, until they reach an age when they may intelligently enter into the holy estate of marriage—with physical and mental maturity.

The earnest, intelligent aid of the American women, whose special mission in India is to save these children, will be of a great use to the Hindu women at this time.]

1. Marriage of girls after puberty is a subject which pertains to our sex; our sisters feel the *evils of early marriage*, and I believe that we have, therefore, a right to speak about it.

2. Till recently we have not had gatherings of enlightened ladies, such as we are now having, and there was no opportunity given to us to put forth our views on this important subject.

3. If we (women) do not complain of the evils resulting from marriage of girls before puberty, if we do not sympathize with our suffering sisters, I ask who else can do so with propriety and justice?

Please imagine for a few minutes the feelings of extreme sorrow of a mother whose infant daughter is hastily carried to the marriage ceremony to be given away to a boy of tender age, and bound down all their lifetime without their consent to a married life; should the boy die the girl is left a child-widow.

In such cases the child-wife knows little or nothing as to what the marriage ceremonies mean beyond a dreamy recollection of festivities, sumptuous meals or singing and gathering of several relations. When she grows into girlhood, suppose she is told that her husband is dead, and that she is compelled to be a widow the rest of her life!

I ask you—does this not move your heart? Is there nothing in our hands to avoid such calamity? Supposing the mother had withheld her consent, she could have stayed for some time the hurried marriage of her daughter. At all events she could have postponed it for some time longer, say, until after puberty had been attained.

If we look into the Vedas, and consult learned persons and their writings on this subject, and look back to the customs that prevailed in ancient days, child marriage did not exist then.

Why was it, then, that our forefathers introduced the change to early marriage or marriage before puberty, which has proved to be so pernicious?

The reasons that are assigned for early marriage are thus noted:

1. Owing to invasions by foreigners and consequent disorder in the Hindu community, which prevailed



Child Wife, Aged Thirteen; Baby Four Months Old. Photographed on Calcutta Street, April, 1909, by Miss Carrie A. Tennant

for centuries, it was thought desirable to place every young Hindu woman under the protection of some young man and his parents as early as possible, so that her life and property may be safeguarded. At this period when the Hindu community was much disturbed, the priests were not slow to frame formidable religious laws to enforce the new custom.

2. It was laid down by priests that a man who has no son to make offerings to his soul after his death would fall into hell. Thus religion contributed not a little to the notion that must have tended in the same direction. Priests and Purohits were under a necessity to marry early, as they could not otherwise officiate at

religious ceremonies. Their example was soon followed by other Brahmins. Thus marriage became compulsory for young girls and optional for boys. Fathers of girls would naturally compete for eligible bridegrooms and try to be beforehand with one another.

One more reason which presses itself upon the minds of thoughtful men is the scantiness of bridegrooms in a limited community, but this time the caste subdivisions having become so numerous that marriage in a community other than their own was looked upon with disfavor, hence no available opportunity was allowed to pass by without making the utmost endeavor to lay hold of a boy, however young he may be, and that as early as possible, for the purpose of marriage.

According to the report of the Social Reform Association of 1907 there were 5,742 young virgin widows in India; of course, all of whom married during childhood. It is admitted by all learned men, and borne out by the Census Report, that the death-rate in childhood is much greater than in mature youth. If children or young girls are married, it is plain that a number of boys, several amongst whom may be husbands, must die before attaining the age of mature youth.

The evils of marriage before puberty are numerous. I know that all my sisters present here are aware of them. I shall enumerate only a few of them:

1. In premature marriage, if the boy-husband dies, the child wife is condemned to widowhood for the rest of her life, and we are taught to

avoid looking at her face early in the mornings.

She is not allowed to mix in social gatherings or to be present during auspicious ceremonies. Adding insult to injury, her head is shaved and she is condemned to a long life of misery and servitude.

2. At the age of puberty, properly speaking, a young girl is not fit to be a mother. There may be exceptions to this, but experienced and learned people point out these facts as general truths.

Premature marriage leads to weak, sickly, disfigured and deformed children.

Early childbirth brings many a young girl to a painful death or, what is worse, to a long, lingering life of suffering and misery—a life without hope, without any of the charms and pleasures which make life worth living. Young women without resources of mental and bodily strength fare ill. The demands of motherhood are so large upon the young woman, and are made so long before her bodily strength and growth have arrived at fullness, that they inevitably tell very much upon her health.

Our girls' education also suffers by early and premature marriage. At that age when education should be imparted at school, and growth advanced unchecked by open-air exercise, both are brought to a standstill. Their going to school is prevented, and the little that they might have learned at school is forgotten. In course of time, married as children, they generally remain in intellect as children all the rest of their days.

It needs no argument to show that such a mother can give no good home

training to her own children. The children, in consequence of failure of duty on the part of the mother, generally become spoiled. Early home training and discipline of children can hardly be expected of a mother who is herself little more than a child. She is perfectly incapable of training her children at home, for it



*Common Sight in Calcutta—Husband and Wife.
Age of Husband, Forty Years; Weight, 200 lbs.
Child Wife, Aged Nine Years; Weight, 70
lbs. Photographed, April, 1909, by
Carrie A. Tennant*

is not such an easy task as some may suppose to bring up a child in the right way.

Another source of misery in general is the increase of members in the little family where the means of income happens to be small. It is there the struggle for existence prevails. Pressure on population for food becomes great. Poverty always looks one in the face; with thousands of our countrymen, one meal a day is the rule. Ill-fed, ill-clad and ill-trained are the men of our village communities whom disease and scarcity of food sweep away by millions year after year.

In consequence of this evil custom

of early marriage, the Hindus, as a race, are degenerated. For want of energy and physical strength they have come to occupy a lower place in the scale of nations. This condition will continue to last so long as the mothers remain the victims of this wicked and unjust system of early marriage.

Looking at other countries of the world, nowhere do we find an infant-wife or a child-widow.

In every other country women are married only when they are mature and of proper age.

Is there *nothing in our own hands* that we could apply to remedy it or at least to modify the prevailing custom?

If all *the mothers in the land* raise their voice, however feeble it may be, against this custom and use their influence, or desist, if need be, from becoming a party to it, or withhold their wilful consent to such a practice of sinful crime, it will assuredly lead to a wholesome result.

We ought to *use our influence* in our own family and with our own

people to prevent haste over the marriage of our little girls.

We ought to explain to our ignorant sisters the appalling evils of such marriages, and in whatever circle it may be, either amongst our own relations or our neighbors, to hold up the picture of misery and suffering with a view to remove from their minds the mistaken idea of urging early union.

Our educated men will no doubt be by our side ever ready to help us.

This is all the more incumbent upon you, my dear sisters, being enlightened as you are, to always do your utmost to remove this blot from our homes and from our beloved motherland.

Mine is not the *only mouth* that speaks to you or beseeches you to action, but believe me that there are thousands of those young sufferers of early widowhood at my back on whose behalf I plead.

It is only then that we may be said to properly fulfill the duties of sisterhood, and to elevate ourselves to the rank of builders of a strong and healthy nation of Hindus.

Suggestions for Mothers' and Parents' Circles

The chairman of the Department of Parent-Teacher Associations has received many letters from different States asking for suggestions for programs, reading matter for mothers and for stimulating attendance and interest in the Parents' Associations.

All clubs gain strength by giving, both in their local work and by reaching out to help weaker organizations. Therefore the chairman

asks that clubs having calendars printed, programs or year-books, which would be suggestive to other clubs, send several of them to her so that she may have a number to send to struggling clubs.

Let the chairman know what you are doing, either as an auxiliary or the school by supplying pictures, piano, library, gymnasium, playground, planting trees, by working

for better school buildings, board members, higher salaries for teachers or by working in rural districts for township high schools and centralization of schools.

Will you send to the chairman any papers, read to your club, which you think would be of value to other clubs? Such a set of loan papers could be added to the national collection and sent out in sets to those desiring them.

Have your programs aimed to help young mothers in the care and feeding of infants? This is a work which is being pushed by the Health Departments of many cities, notably Philadelphia and Chicago. The health officials say there is no better way to reach the mothers who need instruction for the prevention of infant mortality (through summer diarrhoea, etc.) than the Mothers' Clubs in connection with the public schools. What better work could a club do than to help check infant mortality by enlightening mothers in the proper care and feeding of infants?

Does your club see to it that a percentage of the attendance is made up of the foreign mothers and the mothers who have not had opportunities for enlightenment?

Has your club discussed the "diet for school children" and made use of the pamphlet on "*Meals for School Children*," issued by Dr. Elmer E. Brown, of the National Education Commission, Washington, D. C.?

In rural districts the Parents' Club might hold a conference on "Good Roads," inviting all the people of the community. Follow this with a conference on "Centralization of Country Schools."

What splendid work for a club to do! Mrs. Clara Kern Bayliss, of Illinois, writes:

"Give us country club houses. In place of the eight or ten schools in each township, with enrollments ranging from six to sixty, each with meagre apparatus and library of a half dozen books, let us have one central graded school with a building of eight or ten rooms, one of which shall be a reading room for parents as well as for children; light the building well; put up sheds for the horses and render community life attractive by making the school the center of social and intellectual life for the community."

The progress being made in the course of study in the elementary and secondary schools should be considered by Parents' Clubs. We are no longer living in the period of candle-light in education and many advance steps are being taken by educators which it behooves us, as school patrons, to become enlightened upon. The subject of industrial education would furnish material for two or three programs.

Then we must be interested in the teacher! We must enrich the teacher. How can we expect to enrich child life when we are content with the teacher of narrow horizon and empty larder? It is absolutely essential that the teacher should be a person of broad culture and fine personality.

One week of association with a great personality is worth a week of ordinary schoolroom grind.

Then the teacher must have specific training for the work. Scholarship is much; personality with scholarship is

more; but scholarship with personality and specific training is everything.

Our Parents' Clubs, then, should work for better teachers, better schools, better boards of education, and above all, for an enlightenment, educationally, for school patrons that will work for the welfare of the child.

Do what you can, therefore, the coming year to bring about the formation of Parents' Associations in connection with the schools of your community.

Since education is so thoroughly a matter of the joint action of the home and school they should march together intelligently and harmoniously.

Any departure from the normal in the child, whether of precocity or dullness, should receive the careful attention of both parent and teacher together. There have been pathetic cases of physical degeneracy that parents could hardly be blamed for overlooking since the home life did not involve the opportunity for test-

ing. Timidity, irritability, seeming indolence, inattention, loss of memory and a host of common school diseases need the sympathetic consideration of teachers and parents jointly. By frequent conferences both parties may receive helpful suggestions in the better methods of treating the young.

And, instead of the teacher and parent falling apart as the pupil advances to the higher grade, I am constrained to think that this intimacy should steadily increase, for some of our most difficult problems educationally has to do with the high school child.

I trust this coming year will be the year of greatest achievement in the formation of Parents' Clubs in connection with both elementary and secondary schools and that each State will report, at the close of the year, at least six new Parent-Teacher Associations.

MRS. W. S. HEFFERAN,
195 E. 44th St., Chicago, Ill.

Forestry in Schools

GIFFORD PINCHOT, United States Forester

Forestry is attracting wide attention among the schools of the United States. Not only have many colleges and universities introduced courses and even professional schools of forestry, but elementary phases of the subject have been introduced into hundreds of the graded and high schools, and teachers give enthusiastic reports of the success which is attending the new study. Public school teachers say that they have found in it a subject interesting to children, and one which furnishes

much attractive, tangible material to work upon, developing the child's observation, and being at once acceptable to the young mind and most practical.

The public schools of Washington, D. C., and of parts of Iowa are in the vanguard of this movement. Every graded school in Washington and a large number of the rural schools of Pottawattamie County, Iowa, are now teaching the elements of forestry. In Iowa the subject is being taught as a commercial course

in connection with home geography and agriculture, while in the Washington schools it is used in the nature study courses. The four upper grades of the Washington schools are studying the forest and this year all are following practically the same outline; next year this outline will be confined to the fifth grade, while the other grades will follow an outline one step advanced, and so on until by the fourth year a four-year course will have been introduced. As a preparation for this work forestry has been taught in the Normal School of the District of Columbia for several years past, and when the young student teachers take up the actual work of teaching they are already familiar with the details of elementary forest study. Prominent among the other normal schools of the country to take up work of this kind are those of Cleveland, Ohio; Rochester, N. Y., and Joliet, Ill.

There is a section in the Forest Service of the United States Department of Agriculture which works in coöperation with schools in teaching forestry and its related subjects. This coöperation is not limited to technical schools of forestry; it is equally open to primary and kindergarten grades; it is as willing to help teach tree study in a first year nature-study class as to assist in the establishment of a professional forest school.

This Section of Education, as it is called, is now working out model courses of study for graded and high schools in coöperation with the public schools of Washington, D. C., and Philadelphia, Pa. The work in Philadelphia is being conducted by W. N.

Clifford, head of the Commerce Department of the Southern High School, where he is building up a modern equipment and evolving a practical system for the teaching of forestry in high schools.

In Washington the Section of Education is directing a similar work for graded schools in four of the public schools of that city. Besides special lessons in the class room the pupils collect and mount specimens of leaves, twigs, bark and seeds, and, in connection with wood working, wood specimens of different commercial trees are prepared and placed in cabinets. Opposite each wood section is placed the name of the wood, its qualities and uses. Extensive field work is planned for the spring months, and the different classes will be brought out into the woods, there to study the trees at first hand. As these courses are built up and tested they will be published from time to time for distribution among teachers, and it is expected that the practical line along which the courses are being evolved will win for them a wide application in other schools.

Most of the schools now teaching forestry are using as text-books several of the publications issued by the Forest Service, including Farmers' Bulletin 173, "A Primer of Forestry." The service also issues many circulars dealing with local conditions, which teachers in the localities dealt with might find very useful. By writing to the Forest Service, Washington, D. C., as many copies of these various publications as are needed for class room use, as well as other helpful material and information, may be secured free of charge.

The Home the Basis of Civic, Social and Moral Uplift

MRS. FREDERIC SCHOFF

This old world for myriads of ages has whirled through space, while countless generations of men and women have lived and loved, worked and suffered and passed on. Without volition of their own, life came to them. Without volition of their own, they were called away, in many cases unconscious of the Divine plan of the universe and of the absolute dependence on each unit to perform its part for the perfect working of the whole.

Every one enters life through birth, and each human soul in thoughtful moments must acknowledge that a Divine power not only gave life but sustains it each moment.

For a brief space the work to be done is here—its continuance beyond our earthly vision. There is continuity, and through life's lessons each soul is fitted into the great mosaic of the larger life where each one has his place and work to do.

Unless one has the vision of life's scope in its entirety, unless one thinks beyond the day and hour, and lives in the light of the eternal verities, disorder and conflict are the result.

One cannot consider intelligently any real plan for civic, social and moral uplift except by an earnest, honest effort to understand the Divine plan of the universe.

One cannot aim with accuracy or precision without light. One does not reach a goal with any certainty by aimless wandering.

The cause of civic, social and moral degradation lies in humanity, and

only as humanity develops true, clear standards of life can civic, moral and social conditions improve.

The cradle of humanity is in the home. God Himself founded the home when He created man and woman, each with different qualities and different duties, but neither complete without the other. He gave it its greatest crown when He instituted marriage, the bringing into spiritual union and oneness the masculine and feminine which together make one flesh.

He gave to both His own Divine blessing and work when, by fatherhood and motherhood, He decreed that each immortal soul should enter the gates of life to be nurtured in the home which in the Divine plan is the cradle of the race.

These duties and responsibilities are fundamental, vital, of deepest moment to the world and heaven.

Marriage, parenthood and the home are the living forces which make or mar human life, which make or mar civic and social conditions, and which are the definite cause of the moral status of society.

No reforms can be of real value that do not recognize the home as the basis of good or evil, and that do not take into account the fact that no lasting improvement can ever be brought about except by making the hearts of men know the right, and knowing it, wishing to do it.

To the home is given by God the continuance of the race, the physical

and spiritual nurture of the children. They come with the innocence of heaven, with minds and bodies impressionable to all that is pure and good, with infinite possibilities in embryo, and the shaping of these tender little ones is given during the early years of life almost exclusively to the parents.

The trend of life, its ideals and its principles, its physical and moral tone are principally developed by them.

Science to-day asserts that nearly all children are born healthy, that prenatal conditions have less influence than has been supposed, that in the billions of ancestors, heredity is so large a subject that it is unjust to consider a child without good possibilities because his immediate heredity may be unfortunate.

Those who have given their lives to the study of the evolution of the mind and heart and body of the child have discovered that it is a science, exact and certain in cause and effect.

There are still those who ridicule those who consider a child worth studying, who still consider that instinct and chance can guide parents and teachers in their great work. Does the world to-day prove that instinct and chance have given the highest type of manhood and womanhood?

The little child, committed to our care by the Divine Father, is the last thing to be studied. The provision of education which will enable parents to develop in themselves intelligence and sympathetic appreciation of the wide scope of their work is to-day almost an unknown quantity.

Men and women are but children of a larger growth, and civic condi-

tions are the legitimate result of the early influences and ideals given in youth, and which each life in some sort tries to attain.

Corrupt political conditions are the result of units in human form with corrupt ideals of life.

Power to grasp for one's own selfish purpose is but the perversion of power which should be used for the service of all. It has its origin in selfishness, and in blindness to the higher standards of manhood. Trusts are again the result of selfish purpose to get for one's self without regard for others, without any thought of those who may be crushed in the process. It is failure to recognize the brotherhood of man, and is an evidence that the youthful ideals were not shaped by Divine standards.

Money, pleasure, high station are the goal of far too many lives who might have been taught that as a means to service they are good, but as an end they lower one's soul and degrade what should be the real purpose of life to material ends.

How few men in political places to-day use their places except to promote selfish interests, and advance personal friends regardless of their fitness or ability.

The object lesson is before the nation. Its only remedy lies in putting within the hearts of children a higher ideal of citizenship and patriotism, and to the home only can we look for that. We may not be able to change the grown-ups, but we may resolve that as far as in us lies the boys of to-day shall have definite ideals of duty as men and citizens given to them in the formative impressionable years of life, that justice, equity and

righteousness may be so firmly built into character that in whatever station they may be they will not lower their standards.

With grave apprehension many are viewing the alarming increase of divorce, the lax idea of marriage and low standards of morality. Lawyers and clergymen from many States have met to confer on the remedy, and have shaped uniform legislation to prevent the evil, which has already undermined and destroyed thousands of homes and blighted the lives of hundreds of thousands of children.

The only real prevention of this danger to society must come from the home. It is there that one must look for any real improvement.

Marriage, one of God's ordinances, the relation of the sexes in the holiness and purity which God gives them, has been perverted and degraded. The fault, therefore, is in the home which ignores these vital subjects, and which gives to youth no anchor by which to hold to what is sacred and holy, and leaves it to face these great questions without guide or compass.

Only through the home may we see society advance to higher standards of the sacredness and permanence of marriage, and of its great duties, and the home cannot meet its duty until it regards lessons for home making and marital life as a necessary part of education.

Social uplift can only come by raising every unit in the social structure.

Only within the last century has the world realized that it is the brother's keeper as far as disease is concerned, and that safety for one

depends absolutely on safety for all. The war against tuberculosis, against yellow fever and other contagious diseases, the isolation of the victims and the elimination of the slum may not have had their origin in absolutely unselfish motives, but the fact is recognized that society cannot be indifferent to the conditions of any of the members without sharing the results of such indifference and neglect.

The fact of the large death rate among children is ascribed almost wholly to ignorance of the physical needs of infancy. The only remedy for it lies in the home. Physicians are deeply stirred, eager to remedy the fearful infantile mortality, but are helpless before parental ignorance and indifference.

The absolute ignorance of both men and women on hygiene, sanitation and nutrition is the undoubted cause of disease in childhood and maturity. The home which has no equipment for the physical or moral development of its inmates cannot look for the highest type of children or the highest product of the race in maturity.

Why are the prisons full of young men who have entered criminal lives? Why does society complacently take it for granted that these must be criminals? These men and women in prison garb were impressionable children once.

Is it neglect, ignorance and indifference of parents and society that they are where they are? Is it ignorance of the treatment of juvenile offenders that each year adds to the list of criminals? There can be no question of this. A special study of the juvenile delinquent in a large city

shows that the percentage of abnormal children is less than ten per cent. Nine-tenths are boys. Americans and foreigners are before the court in equal numbers, and there is also an equal number of Protestants and Catholics.

Half the children's delinquencies are larceny, showing that a sense of property rights is not inherent.

These children, who are the embryo criminal of later years, are, in most cases, the logical result of unwise, careless, ignorant treatment by parents, of community carelessness as to children's needs and of improper treatment when they offend against the law. This treatment is due to ignorance of humanity and of the process by which it develops on the part of courts and community.

On the three counts of physical, mental and moral development there is to-day no adequate knowledge of the influence and methods by which the infant becomes the man strong and true in body, mind and soul.

There is to-day no adequate provision for education of parents, teachers or social workers in the science of child nurture.

There is to-day no clear idea of the close relations between the physical, mental and moral growth of the individual, of the race tendencies.

These three reasons are the causes for most of the evils which cause the disorders of our social system.

The home is therefore proved to be the basis of civic, social and moral degeneracy. No plan for such uplift can be successful that does not have for its purpose the development of efficiency and intelligence in the home.

The work is basic and fundamental, and without it the foundations of life are weak and insecure.

The most needed science is that of home making and child nurture. The most needed education is on those subjects, for whatever else one does the proper knowledge of the human body and its functions, the soul and its qualities and development, the mind and its growth are elemental and of vital moment to every one. It is the foundation of a good parent, a good teacher, a good lawyer or judge, a good business man.

Every generation produces those who rise head and shoulders above the masses, who stand out as types of the greatness of which the human soul is capable.

To bring the masses up to these possibilities is the great duty of the home, but the home should be aided by the government, which has the power to study broadly the conditions affecting the home, and which should have the power to provide such means of education as will aid the home in its work.

The work already instituted by the Department of Agriculture indicates a beginning of home protection and education by the Government, and the desire to extend this education to women in rural districts, while giving to the farmer the knowledge of how to make the most of the soil is the next step forward which is even now being taken with enthusiasm at the solicitation of the Mothers' Congress, endorsed by our former President Roosevelt.

Whatever develops in the girl the qualities which are *innate* and God-given, whatever brings into her heart

a high conception of the God-given duty of mothering the children of men, and of making the home a place of health and comfort and high endeavor, whatever develops the unselfish thought for others and the intelligent power to serve is in the line of education which counts.

Whatever places before a woman another sphere as preferable, whatever diverts her ideals to business or a literary, business or political career apart from the home is in the line of descent from what is highest.

The world has never needed the home woman more than now. The children are suffering for her care. In homes where parents do not know how to bring up their children, in orphan asylums, where massed together they die for lack of mothering; in reformatories, where mother wisdom has no sway; in prisons, where lack of good mothering has sent them; in hospitals, in schools and colleges, where a false standard of edu-

cation is dwarfing them; in mines and factories, and in courts and legislation the children are languishing, and will languish until woman realizes that by neglect of her special work earth and heaven are the losers.

Whatever develops in boys the sense of duty to the home of responsibility in bringing to the wife a pure heart and a high view of marriage, and of sharing with her the building of a home in the highest sense; whatever puts into their hearts honesty, courage and a deep consciousness of the Divine Power with which life touches the heights is in the line of education which earth and heaven need.

Science must lead to higher standards of life in the home; it must clasp hands with the power of the Divine Spirit, and into the hearts of fathers and mothers and men in high places put a deeper realization that the home and the children are the real purpose of all achievement.

Conference on Prevention of Infant Mortality, New Haven, Conn., Nov. 11-12

A campaign in the interest of babies' rights to health and to all that promotes health in the way of favorable environment, and of favorable physical, mental and moral inheritances, has been inaugurated by the American Academy of Medicine. As an initial step in the movement, a conference is to be held in New Haven next November, at which leading physicians, sociologists and educators from all parts of the country will join forces in a study of the problem. The

general subject of the conference will be "The Prevention of Infant Mortality," and the four aspects under which it will be considered are the medical, philanthropic, institutional and educational.

The New Haven conference is to be held under the auspices of the American Academy of Medicine, and Dr. Helen C. Putnam, of Providence, R. I., formerly president of the academy, is chairman of the executive committee.

What One Mothers' Club Has Done in the Past Year

Our club has a membership of sixty. We meet monthly from October to May, inclusive.

The work of our club is not all theoretical. We are especially interested in erring and dependent children and are doing several very practical things to help them. One is to provide a social center. We have averaged more than a hundred children each evening, for whom we provide games, music, sewing, weaving and coloring of pictures. We also have short talks on various subjects to show them how they can improve their opportunities in life. The change for the better in their habits and manners has been most gratifying.

We provide the salary (\$600.00) of a probation officer for our district. A committee meets monthly with this officer for conference and assistance and furnishes clothing and periodicals for use among her needy ones. During the summer several hundred of these poor children were given outings in the country.

Our club also raised \$222.80 to-

wards the public playgrounds, and as the Superintendent says it costs less than one cent a day per child we were the means of providing a place for 371 children to play during the ten weeks' school vacation. We also contributed clothing and books to one of the Farm Schools.

Our newest work is holding weekly meetings to instruct mothers in the care of their babies. One hospital kindly put a room at our disposal and doctors and nurses of the place have given their services freely. At our first meeting the doctor talked on the care of a newborn baby—bathing, bandaging, clothing and nourishment—after which a nurse gave a demonstration lesson. In the succeeding weeks the talks will deal with the care of the baby from month to month, how to prevent babies' ills as well as how to relieve them. Through these meetings we will lessen infant mortality and prevent many children's diseases.

We believe the dominant note in child-saving is to educate the mother.

Organic Growth

Many mothers determine to keep their children out of school until eight, nine or ten years of age, conscious that the confinement is not good for them and that the "unripe" brain and entire nervous system are not ready for such work as is required of them, but the question comes what shall be done with them?

Mothers cannot always find time to "live with the children," the chil-

dren cannot be allowed to run wild in the streets and but few can afford private teachers.

At six or seven years of age the children have outgrown the kindergarten, the public school is too strenuous. They must have something that answers to their special needs, guidance without repression, activity without lawlessness. Every day must be a perfect day for them. As they eat

to satisfy a present demand without thought of future growth, so each day must satisfy the present need, and if that is done the result must be satisfactory. But they must be in the right environment to both create and satisfy these demands. They must have their work and the desire must be self created.

There should be schools where much of the work is done out of doors, where there is handwork of every sort suited to the children's ability, where they can move about at will, not be confined to one seat or one position, where all instruction, until they are perhaps ten years of age, is given or-

ally, where the sense organs are trained before any attempt is made to use the reasoning faculties—in short, where their development will be in harmony with natural laws.

Let them learn to read as they learn to walk and to talk, when they want to do it, and then by encouragement, not forcing.

Let them unfold as the flowers, from the force within rather than from anything without; then we shall have an all-round development—the sound body, the cultivated intellect and the fine moral perceptions.

LYDIA J. NEWCOMB COMINGS.

Book Reviews

Human Pearls. Francis Eaton Burnett, D.D.S. The Lakeside Press. This little book on the teeth is one that every mother should own. It shows by illustrations the growth of the first teeth, the coming of the second or permanent teeth, and the care that should be given them.

"If the mothers would manifest the same interest in the permanent teeth that they do in the baby's first teeth what a blessing would accrue to humanity! No parent can ever atone for the injury done a child in neglecting the first permanent molars, which erupt at about the sixth year."

Every child has the right to demand of his parents that in the years when he cannot provide for his own welfare his parents shall do it intelligently. Few mothers are sufficiently informed concerning the physical growth of the child. The teeth are one of the most important parts of the body.

To understand how to keep them is surely of vital interest. No clearer lessons than are contained in "Human Pearls" could be given.

The Psychology of Thinking. Irving Edgar Miller, Ph.D. "The attempt has been made to show the actual working of the mind as it struggles with problems in the concrete life of the individual, the significance of the mental processes when they are brought to bear upon these problems, and particularly the growth in control over the forces of the world and of life that comes through the development and perfection of the higher psychical processes which we designate under the head of thinking." The writer has attempted to make the psychological doctrine herein presented stimulating and suggestive, both to the parents and teachers of children.

Outline for Study of Adolescence

By MRS. ROBERT E. PARK

Period of Adolescence, about thirteen or fourteen to twenty-four. Read preface to Vol. I, pp. xviii, xix, G. Stanley Hall's "Adolescence."

"In ministering to the needs of adolescence the higher instincts of parenthood culminate, and age renews its youth" (Preface, p. xviii).

Characteristic Changes:

Read Vol. II, Chapter I, "Sensitiveness of the Adolescent to Touch Changes in Appetite, Normal Tendency to Slang, Love of Music, Color, General Cravings." Vol. II, pp. 144-5-6.

Also chapter on "Social Instincts and Institutions," Vol. II.

"Poise between indifference to the good opinion of others and excessive regard for it is never so hard as in this most plastic stage of both temperament and character" ("Social Instincts," p. 364).

PHYSICAL NEEDS.

Read Chapter VII, Vol. I, "Periodicity," pp. 491 to 495, and from 505 to end of chapter. Also, "Adolescent Girls and Their Education," Vol. II, pp. 562, 569 to 583, for counsel as to girls and their treatment.

For boys, read Vol. II, pp. 73-4-5. Also, in Vol. I, pp. 131, 138, 166 to 174; and beginning p. 187 for gymnastics and p. 202 for plays, sports and games. Also, Vol. I, pp. 358-9.

See also Forbush's "Boy Problem."

Vol. I, growth in height and weight, also, for characteristic changes, Vol. II, p. 97.

"Youth now is really and easily overworked; is never so fresh or more rested as when at the top of this con-

dition, but very easily wearied and exhausted with the languor due to overtraining."

MENTAL NEEDS.

Read preface Vol. I, p. xvi. Vol. II, pp. 68 to 81. Also, pp. 89-90; p. 496, Chap. "Social Instincts, p. 363.

"Youth cannot be temperate in the philosophical sense. Now it is prone to laughter; hearty, and perhaps convulsive, and is abandoned to pleasure, the field of which ought gradually to widen, with, perhaps, the pain field, although more. There is gayety and irrepressible levity that overflows in every absurd manifestation of animal spirits that cannot be repressed, that danger and affliction appeals to responsibility and the future cannot daunt nor temper. To have a good time is felt to be an inalienable right. The joys of life are never felt with so keen a relish; youth lives for pleasure, whether of an epicurean or æsthetic type. . . . But this, too, reacts into pain. . . . Young people weep and sigh, they know not why; depressive are almost as characteristic as expansive states of consciousness. 'The curve of despondency starts at eleven, rises steadily and rapidly till fifteen, culminating at seventeen, and falls steadily till twenty-three'" (Vol. II, p. 77).

MORAL NEEDS.

Vol. I, p. 225; pp. 408-9.

Vol II, pp. 301, 303; p. 321, 383-4; pp. 432, 433(A), 439(B), 442(C); pp. 76 to 91; pp. 621-2; p. 334; p. 68 to 75.

"To act occasionally with inde-

pendence, from the highest possible ideal motives, develops the impulse and the joy of pure obligation and thus brings some new and original force into the world" (Vol. II, p. 383).

"These years are the best decade of life. No age is so responsive to all the best and wisest adult endeavor. In no psychic soil, too, does seed, bad as well as good, strike such deep root, grow so rankly, or bear fruit so quickly or so surely" (Preface to Vol. I, p. xviii).

PHYSICAL DANGERS.

Vol. I, p. 432 (IV, V and VI) to p. 470; pp. 250 to 254.

Vol. II, 491-495.

"The young man is fighting the hottest battle of his life with the devil solitary and alone. Often his ill-judged and ignorant precautions themselves, and always and especially his concern, directly aggravate his troubles" (Vol. I, p. 438).

"... the world presents no such opportunity to religion, the moralist, teacher, the wise father, the doctor who is also a philosopher. There is no such state of utter plasticity, such hunger for vital knowledge, counsel, sound advice. Young men in other respects headstrong, obstinate, self-sufficient and independent are here guided by a hint, a veiled allusion, a chance word of wisdom" (Vol. I, 463).

MENTAL DANGERS.

Vol. I, pp. 264-7; pp. 342-3; pp. 357 to 366.

"It is, perhaps, almost normal at a certain stage of human life to take pleasure in hectoring, plaguing, pecking at, worrying, etc., often, perhaps, to test the temper or cry point. . . .

the strange teasing instinct often almost irresistible in those incapable of rancor and overflowing with general good-will. . . . Burke suggests that the aggressions into the rights of other personalities may be parts of old chains of activity involved in the pursuit, torture and killing of men and enemies. . . . If they be fragments of old instincts it is vain to seek any well-defined conscious motive. 'Do they in some covert or concealed way, acting beneath the subliminal range of consciousness, aid in the development of useful activities, or are they merely a dead and useless weight, continually serving as a drag to civilization?' "

MORAL DANGERS.

Vol. I, pp. 406-7; pp. 333, 342-4; pp. 349 to 385, to 397; pp. 401 to end of chapter on Juvenile Faults.

Vol. II, pp. 85 and 121.

"Crime and honesty run in the lines of greatest vitality, and the qualities that make contrivers of crime are substantially the same that will make men successful in honest pursuits" (Quoted on p. 342, Vol. I).

"It is significant that sixteen is the age when children are most influenced by their teacher. The boy feels that his day has come; he is becoming a man and the girl a woman. Just as gregarious animals are easiest tamed, so the very gang instinct itself is almost a cry of the soul to be influenced, and this instinct can be made to lead to the good as well as to the bad" (Vol. I, p. 404-5).

ADOLESCENT LOVE.

Vol. II, pp. 102 to 105; pp. 120, 122, 124-5, 127.

"Psychologically, religion and love rise and degenerate together. One

test of an age, race or civilization is to keep these two as near as love and death are to each other, and in as wholesome relations" (Vol. II, p. 127).

DISEASES:

BODY.

Vol. I, pp. 250 to 264.

MIND.

Vol. I, p. 264 to end of chapter.

"From thirteen to fifteen great reduction of school work for both sexes, but chiefly for boys, should be insisted on. No one should be allowed to go to school at all without nine hours of sleep and a hearty appetite, for even presence in school impairs nutrition, arrests growth, starts neurotic habits, and especially checks the development of the highest powers, which are the last to unfold" (Dr. Hertel, quoted on p. 243, Vol. I, "Adolescence").

EDUCATION:

INFLUENCES OF NATURE.

Vol. II, p. 144, chapter on adolescent feelings toward nature. Influences of Ideals.

Vol II, p. 249 (II), 261 (III and IV). Also, p. 433 (A), 439 (B), 442 (C), 445 (D), 446 (E).

Vol. II, p. 318 to end of chapter.

INFLUENCES OF THE HOME.

Vol. II, pp. 375 and 383. Also, in "Das Jahr des Kindes," studies from Ellen Key (now translated into English), the chapter "Heimatlosigkeit," or "Homelessness."

INFLUENCES OF THE SCHOOL.

Vol. I, p. 243.

Vol. II, pp. 624, 632, 636, to end of chapter. Also, chapter on intellectual development and education, and from Ellen Key, the chapters V and VI, in "Das Jahr des Kindes."

INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH.

Vol. I, 1st par. p. 225. also read Forbush, "The Boy Problem."

INFLUENCE OF BOOKS AND READING, THE DRAMA, ETC.

Vol. II, pp. 153, 155-6; p. 432 to end of chapter; pp. 318-9.

"Of all the changes normal at adolescence, none are more comprehensive, and perhaps none are more typical of the psychic transformation of this age than those that occur in the attitude toward the various aspects of nature. . . . every object and thing in nature has somewhere and by some race been an object of perhaps supreme worship" (Vol. II, pp. 44-5).

"The Bible for childhood should be pure literature with no trace of dogma. It is simply bad Bible pedagogy that makes children precocious and strident skeptics about the grand stories and miracles of Scripture, while tales from Homer, Shakespeare, Greek tragedy and Dante maintain their sway over the heart, unchallenged by the callow intellect" (Vol. II, p. 319).

"Never is the power to appreciate so far ahead of the power to express, and never does understanding so far outstrip ability to explain. Both mental and moral acquisition sink too deep to be reproduced by examination without injury both to intellect and will. There is nothing in the environment to which the adolescent nature does not keenly respond. With pedagogic tact we can teach about everything we know that is really worth knowing, but if we amplify instead of giving great wholes, we starve and retard the soul, which is now all insight and receptivity. Plasticity is at its maximum, utterance at

its minimum. The inward traffic obstructs the outer currents. Boys especially are often dumb-bound—inarticulate, save in their own vigorous and inelegant way" (Vol. II, pp. 453-4).

"Adolescence marks the rise of the first sentimental response, the first, best expression of which is myth, poetry, or the religion of nature. Familiarity with and love of these interpretations should be systematically fostered. Their possibilities are as great as they are unrealized."

"Boys in their teens have a veritable passion for the stories of great men, and the heroölogy of physics, rightly

applied, might generate a momentum of interest that would even take them through the course as laid out.

Physics has its saints and martyrs and devotees, its dramatic incidents and epochs, its struggles with superstition, its glorious triumphs; and a judicious seasoning, perhaps, of the whole course with its references and reports, with choice material from this field would do much. Moreover, the historic sense is awakening—giving a present sense of achievement and progress—and nothing appeals to the young more than to feel vividly the sense of growth" (Vol. II, pp. 153-155).

Good Roads

The National Congress of Mothers has voiced the belief that good roads have an important relation to good homes, good schools and the welfare of the child. No greater benefit to rural life can be given than to make the roads passable. The automobile is a strong factor in the betterment



Sample of English Roads—Sandgate, England



Mud Road in Missouri

of roads throughout the country. Mothers' Circles should lend their influence to further every movement that will give to country homes the advantages of easy communication with others, and especially should they see that the roads to school houses are well kept.

A Plea for the Children

From MRS. THEODORE W. BIRNEY'S address to Mothers in 1899

As fast as adults cast aside their indifference and enter more fully into the study, life and needs of infancy and childhood, just so fast will the regeneration of the race be effected. Ah, the misery entailed upon helplessness through ignorance! If all the unnecessary heartaches and cruel sense of injustice which little children suffer could be expressed in a single sob, the earth would tremble with its force and our hearts stand still in awe of our hideous selfishness. That perhaps sounds harsh, but is the world not selfish where children are concerned? They should be the first consideration of both parents and State. Are they? Look into your own life first, and then that of your neighbor, and answer. If you are a man nine chances out of ten you are so absorbed in business cares that you have little or no time for your children. You work to surround them with material comforts while you deny them the priceless boon of your sympathy and companionship. No amount of gold can ever atone to them for this loss, and the probabilities are that the wealth you accumulate will prove a stumbling block in their pathway. If you are a woman—but why go into these details, these trite old stories. Mother-love and devotion does not always stand for unselfishness. It is not so hard for a mother to make a great sacrifice; it is hard for her sometimes to realize that what she regards as saintly unselfishness in herself is really a subtle, disastrous form of selfishness which will not fail to dwarf the development of her children. There should be no patent on unselfishness in any family; each member should bear his or her part of the family burdens. We are all agreed in this, and yet do we live up to our conviction in the matter?

Our obligation is that dual one which exists in every relation of life, a duty not only to ourselves but an equally important one to those less privileged. And

so it behooves us to act, to speak, to feel in such perfect harmony of purpose that the listening world may hear such strains of aspiration as of themselves will lift humanity nearer the realm of the ideal. We may not be agreed on many things, the methods of accomplishing the purpose for which we are striving may be diverse, in our zeal we may commit errors in judgment, but if our hearts are true and steadfast we will stand together, united by a common cause, the love of childhood.

It seems to me that all should perceive what intelligent parenthood means for the race, and that to attain it is as well worth our effort and attention as the study of Greek, Latin, higher mathematics, medicine, law, or any other profession. This National Congress of Mothers is unquestionably a popular movement; the thoughtful welcome it and recognize in it unlimited power for good, and yet it has its critics. And now a few words to these critics, not in antagonism, but in the hope of awakening them to the importance of this movement. Their first objection is that to attend a Mothers' Congress or a Mothers' Club a woman must neglect her children and her home; they neither condemn nor criticize the woman who goes regularly to market to supply the physical needs of her children, who often spends many hours weekly shopping for their clothing or her own, who cheerfully devotes an entire morning to a search through the shops for some particular color or design in material or trimming, when another might have served her purpose equally well and much valuable time saved, who gives hours to her machine and sewing, and by doing this work herself is enabled, as she explains, to have finer trimmings and materials than she could afford if she put her sewing out. Such is our truly domestic critic. The chances are that she belongs to a progressive ~~each~~ club which meets

weekly, and that she makes frequent neighborhood calls; that she does not hesitate to gossip about the affairs of others in the presence of her children, and that she and her husband argue before them the question as to how they should be disciplined; it is not unusual for parents to differ on this point, and for children to witness a lack of self-control in those they should respect above all others, which dwarfs their ideals as surely as a black frost blights a fruit tree when in blossom. They see no objection to "showing off" their children on all occasions, to attracting attention to them by unwisely repeating *within their hearing* the bright and cunning things they have said. They thus feed their own and the children's vanity. These are a few of the things which are done by all classes of our critics, from the woman who poses as a "domestic mother," to some of the women of fashion who see little of their children and know less.

Then there is the inconsistent woman who belongs to a dozen clubs for the betterment of the human race, but who really hasn't time for a mothers' club. Should we not pity rather than condemn the short-sightedness of such critics, who feel that they know quite enough to bring up their children without any outside aid?

It is incomprehensible that many of the most active workers in reforms are so slow to recognize the importance of *preventive* work. Their very familiarity with crime, disease, drunkenness and general wretchedness seems to develop in them a spirit of resignation to such conditions as being "an inevitable accompaniment of human life, otherwise I cannot understand why they should never cease calling out, "Save the children, save the pure and helpless from all this degradation! We will do the best we can for those whose youth is spent, but if you knew *all* that we know, if you had

seen all that we have seen, you would never rest until the *child* was the first care of the race!"

Let us eliminate from childhood the swords and guns and caps, the toy cannon and other destructive emblems of strife, let us educate our children away from false and demoralizing ideas of valor, and through such education may we not hope that the time will come when war, with its attendant horrors, will be replaced by a stern and united determination on the part of the nations in behalf of peace—when no civilized people will glory in the sacrifice of human life, but when all humanity will know that it is better served by that arbitration which makes for universal peace?

Let us who believe in a Mothers' Congress and Mothers' Clubs teach our children that if there be an unpardonable sin it is the misuse of power, intellectual, political or social; that the highest development of any faculty is obtained only through use, and that life means service, glad, joyous service, for mankind and the world. All nature sets us this beautiful example of service: the sun rises and the darkness falls, the seasons come and go, the earth yields up her fruits, all for the benefit of man; no tree absorbs its own fruits, no flowers bloom for themselves alone. If we did but keep close to the heart of nature we should learn much to which our eyes are now blinded through too long study of graven images of wood and stone and printed page.

If this movement is to retain its vigor it must be sapped by neither fads nor theories; it must bring to its aid in the various sections and communities where it takes hold the best knowledge it can command; it must not antagonize those who most need its aid, nor must it fear or resent criticism. It must, if it would prosper, avoid all strife for office, all useless dissension and discussion, and endeavor always to preserve the dignity of its high calling.

State News

ARIZONA.

The Churchill Mothers' Circle, in addition to its program of study, has provided swings and benches on the school grounds, and a pavilion for eating lunches.

IOWA.

The City Union of Mothers' Clubs in Des Moines includes seventeen organizations, and the work they are accomplishing assures us of an increased roll.

Domestic science clubs and literary clubs for girls have been formed by the mothers' clubs.

There has never been a clash between the parent organization and the teachers and other schools are asking to have mothers' clubs organized.

Mrs. W. H. Bailey is president of the City Union of Mothers' Clubs.

LOUISIANA.

The annual meeting of Louisiana Congress of Mothers will be held in Shreveport during the State fair, October 30, 31.

NEW YORK.

The New York State Assembly of Mothers will meet at Hornell, in October. Program will be given in October MAGAZINE.

PENNSYLVANIA.

The Pennsylvania Congress of Mothers will meet this year at Wilkes-Barre, October 29, 30.

RHODE ISLAND'S GREAT WORK IN SAVING BABIES.

A public meeting was held in April, at Providence, for the specific purpose of arousing the community to mutual interest and cooperation in the highest welfare of the child. At this meeting Mrs. Frederic Schoff explained the result of work done in other cities in reducing infant mortality, which in many instances is caused by lack of knowledge of the parents as to the care and feeding of babies.

As a result, the following day Mrs. Schoff and a committee called upon Mayor Fletcher and upon Dr. Chapin, superintendent of the Board of Health, stating plans of work for a Child Hygiene Committee, and asking their cooperation.

Assurances of interest and help were promptly given.

The District Nursing Association and the mothers' clubs also expressed their desire to cooperate in work which would be supplementary to work that they had been doing for years.

Permission was obtained from the school authorities to use the school buildings for

lectures instructing mothers in the welfare of the child.

Mrs. Jay Perkins was appointed chairman of the Child Hygiene Committee, and immediately gathered about her an efficient committee and arranged for a series of meetings to be held the first two weeks in June.

Mrs. George L. Gross was chosen chairman of the Bureau of Speakers, her duty being to secure doctors and nurses who would speak at the meetings.

So great an interest was shown by the audiences, so kindly and ready were the doctors to answer the requests for help, that the committee was able to arrange for carrying through successfully thirty-six meetings, with an average attendance of sixty-two. Seven meetings in Yiddish, four in Italian, one in Polish, one in Portuguese, and twenty-two in English, thus reaching 2,184 mothers.

At each meeting a doctor who could speak in the language needed was present, who took as the basis of his talk the topics found in the leaflets on the Feeding and Care of Babies.

The leaflets were presented by the Board of Health, and were given to each mother who attended the meetings, as she left the building.

Thirty thousand invitations were printed by the Congress and distributed mainly by the teachers, and a few by others interested.

The committee is much indebted to Mayor Fletcher, who offered the use of his office as a central supply station for both leaflets and invitations.

At nearly every one of these meetings a district nurse was in attendance throughout the meeting, who answered questions and became acquainted with the mothers.

An entertainment was furnished to attract the attention and procure the attendance of the mothers.

Mrs. Harry Hardy was Chairman of the Refreshment Committee, and as far as possible attended the meetings and served light refreshments, which in most cases consisted of lemonade and wafers.

In many cases the ladies having charge of the meetings saved the Congress the expense of the refreshments by supplying them personally, or through friends.

This same line of work was followed in the city of Pawtucket, where Mrs. James Wheaton was made Chairman of the Child Hygiene Committee.

She and her assistants carried through successfully seven meetings.

Much credit is due the members of this committee, who worked under great disadvantages, beginning their work much later than the Providence committee, and

having no Mothers' Clubs already established to assist them.

Already plans are made in Providence for establishing permanent classes to teach mothers how to keep their children well. This will be tried as an experiment at one center. Results will determine whether it be wise to continue and extend the work.

Another branch of the work which is under full headway, although the committee was organized only about ten days ago, is the gathering of supplies, with Mrs. Charles C. Mumford as Chairman. The work began with the view of assisting the *Baby Camp*. Supplies have already been promised which will furnish completely one camp. Other supplies have been offered, and the committee now represent a general supply department.

Many other committees are actively at work, and before another year goes by will have definite results to report.

The members of all of the committees speak with the warmest appreciation of the readiness with which help has been given them.

The Congress has passed a vote of thanks to Mayor Fletcher, Dr. Chapin, Superintendent of Board of Health; Miss Mary S. Gardiner, Superintendent of District Nursing Association; doctors, principals and teachers of schools and other parties who have donated money and supplies.

Even this long list does not include by any means all who have evinced an interest, or been helpful in this work.

So generous and so ready a responsiveness on the part of the whole community assures us that the time was ripe for this work.

TEXAS.

According to plans formulated at a meeting of the Mothers of Dallas, called by Mrs. J. N. Porter, State Organizer of National Congress of Mothers, all the mothers' and parents' associations of Texas will be invited to send delegates to Dallas, October 18, 19, 20, and in convention session organize the Texas Branch of the National Congress of Mothers.

At the meeting much enthusiasm was manifested. Already a number of cities throughout the State have expressed their desire for the meeting which Dallas is to hold, when in the first convention of mothers in the State will assemble.

The Committee on Arrangements was chosen and defined preparations will be made by it. The committee includes every president of a Mothers' Club in the city, and all of the members are active and well-known workers for the welfare of the child. The committee: Mrs. J. N. Porter, Chairman; Mesdames H. H. Jacoby, William Freeman, Charles Phelan, J. W. McManus, N. B. Ford, W. A. Lichter, Mattie R. Turner, J. W. Spake, Frank Gilbert, J. T. Leddy, C. E. Hunt, W. A. Kemp, C. B.

Daniels, Ed Foy, Ed Kneeland, J. A. Hunter, Louella Styles Vincent, Albert Gantt, W. J. Fox, C. C. Lane, M. C. Kersh, P. P. Tucker, J. H. Pickrell, S. E. Buchanan and J. M. Martin.

On the morning of October 19 the delegates will perfect a State organization for the consolidation of the mother interests of the State. It has been urged that only in coöperation will the individual receive the greatest personal benefits and the general federation of mothers will help much in tutoring the individual mother. Officers will be elected and committees appointed.

In the afternoon of that day the ladies will be entertained at luncheon and by automobile drives about the city. Places of special interest to mothers will be visited. The Juvenile Court, playgrounds, kindergartens, public schools and many other places will be named in the itinerary. Perhaps in the evening a reception at a private home will be given.

October 20 will be Mothers' Congress Day at the State Fair. Sydney Smith, in granting the permission for the name of the day, said: "It is a pleasure and honor to call October 20 after the mothers." Badges will be supplied the guests, and they will be invited to enjoy all the privileges of their ownership.

The intention of the organizers of the new body is that an organization will be formed in the wide interests of the mother and her child, and that after the convention in Dallas no one will be left in ignorance of what combined motherhood means.

MEXICO CONGRESS OF MOTHERS.

Seven States in Mexico have a National Mothers' Congress organization. There are six clubs in Mexico City among the Mexican mothers. These clubs are in connection with as many kindergarten schools. There are many difficulties to contend with here. The Oriental custom of seclusion for women, the ignorance of anything which pertains to educational or philanthropic work has made the burden doubly heavy for their leader. Quite a large number of earnest women have helped in the work thus far, and many have given generous sums to the cause.

Seven thousand dollars has been given toward a fund for a "Model Dairy." Another \$7,000 for a public library for children; \$3,000 for a day nursery.

Mrs. Lopez has thought best to begin with the younger women, to teach and train them for better motherhood and the work of the National Congress.

She has issued a booklet which has been placed with every mother who has children in the kindergarten schools, and also with large numbers of others whose babies will one day be in these institutions.

The first page is a blank for the birth certificate; following are blanks to be used

up to the eighteenth month. The weight, height, temperature and general condition is thus recorded by the mother and family physician for future use. Other blanks are to record observations and the diseases of childhood, time of dentition, when the child walks and talks. Lastly, a vaccination certificate. This little book to be presented by the parents when the child enters the kindergarten. Thus the teacher, who we hope will be able to make intelligent use of this important little history, will be able to know whether her pupil has been well or ill, whether backward or precocious. This booklet is marked No. 1, and is to be followed by others, which will contain a history of the child through his school years.

Another booklet contains constitution and by-laws, with an outline of the subjects to be studied. This outline of the lessons to be learned by the parents is most comprehensive and especially suited to the conditions in Mexico.

Scientific temperance is to be taught in fourteen States of the Republic. The temperance work here has been largely accomplished by Mrs. Burger of the W. C. T. U. organization.

It is the desire to know what is in use in the schools in the United States pertaining to scientific temperance instruction in the schools. These lessons must be translated into Spanish before we can use them here. Pulque is the curse of this nation, and we are anxious that no time be lost in getting scientific temperance instruction into our Mexican schools this year.

The Mexican Congress has requested the American Club of the National Congress of Mothers to conduct the Model Dairy, when sufficient funds have been raised to build it. Their President says they "want it done better than they know how to do it."

The Government is going to assume the cost of publishing a NATIONAL CONGRESS OF

MOTHERS' MAGAZINE for Mexican parents, which will be free; also a children's paper, so anxious are they to advance the work for the good of their people.

This is our report of the work done in one year in Mexico in the Mexican Branch of the National Congress of Mothers. Much new work is being planned. A course of lectures to young women who are to become future wives and mothers in these Mexican homes. Lectures are to be prepared for the fathers and mothers on the subject of heredity and parental responsibility. These will be delivered both in English and Spanish. We hope to make them most interesting by stereopticon views which will illustrate the conditions which we wish to impress more deeply than can be done by words alone.

The American branch of the National Congress of Mothers has been organized since March 10, when we had our first meeting. There are thousands of unhoused people who swelter in the tropical sun and at night shiver in the high altitude.

Mexico City has the largest death rate in the world, there being no quarantine possible with the large homeless population.

Morality is at a low ebb. There is no law to punish for adultery or any other sex crime.

We have obtained the consent of the editor of the leading daily American paper for as much space as we can use once a month for our American National Congress news and work. In this way we will be able to interest many mothers and fathers whom we could not reach if they had to buy a magazine.

We wish we had a hundred hands instead of two when we think of the work to be done here and the few who are able and willing to help us.

MRS. E. DEAN FULLER,
National Press Chairman for the Congress of Mothers of Mexico.

Our Club Prayer

Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face, without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment, and always generous.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Let us take time for all things; make us grow calm, serene, gentle.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are as one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great common woman heart of us all, and let us not forget to be kind.

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AIMS AND PURPOSES OF NATIONAL CONGRESS OF MOTHERS

To raise the standards of home life. To develop wiser, better-trained parenthood.

To give young people, ignorant of the proper care and training of children, opportunities to learn this, that they may better perform the duties of parenthood.

To bring into closer relations the home and the school, that parent and teacher may cooperate intelligently in the education of the child.

To surround the childhood of the whole world with that loving, wise care in the impressionable years of life, that will develop good citizens, instead of lawbreakers and criminals.

To use systematic, earnest effort to this end, through the formation of Mothers' Clubs in every Public School and elsewhere; the establishment of Kindergartens, and laws which will adequately care for neglected and dependent children, in the firm belief that united concerted work for little children will pay better than any other philanthropic work that can be done.

To carry the mother-love and mother-thought into all that concerns or touches childhood in Home, School, Church, State or Legislation.

To interest men and women to cooperate in the work for purer, truer homes, in the belief that to accomplish the best results, men and women must work together.

To secure such legislation as will ensure that children of tender years may not be tried in ordinary courts, but that each town shall establish juvenile courts and special officers, whose business it shall be to look out for that care which will rescue, instead of confirm, the child in evil ways.

To work for such probationary care in individual homes rather than institutions.

To rouse the whole community to a sense of its duty and responsibility to the blameless, dependent and neglected children, because there is no philanthropy which will so speedily reduce our taxes, reduce our prison expenses, reduce the expense of institutions for correction and reform.

The work of the Congress is civic work in its broadest and highest sense, and every man or woman who is interested in the aims of the Congress is cordially invited to become a member and aid in the organized effort for a higher, nobler national life, which can only be attained through the individual homes.